

Serial No.: 09/733,433
Attorney Docket No.: 10003220-1

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated December 14, 2005 contained a final rejection of claims 1-31. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 15. Claims 1-21 and 24-31 are in the case. Please consider the present amendment with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This amendment is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kageyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,790).

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

Specifically, among other things, the Applicants' claimed invention includes "...automatically scheduling a preventative maintenance appointment by contacting a service technician with the electronic message..." Support for these newly claimed elements can be found throughout the specification. For example, paragraph [0008] describes "...scheduling an event..." based on what the sensors detect. In addition, FIG.3 shows sensors detecting preventative maintenance and creating a notification and paragraph [0028] states that "...the sensor 17 may detect that preventative maintenance needs to be scheduled. In one embodiment, the sensor 17 may determine that the hard copy output engine 14 is malfunctioning, and that an appointment for a service technician needs to be scheduled." Further, paragraph [0039] states that "...the electronic message is transmitted as an email..."

In contrast, Kageyama merely discloses a printing system having a printer connected to a computer that is managed by another computer over a network (see Abstract of Kageyama). Although Kageyama discloses providing a status monitoring system that monitors the printer, Kageyama clearly does not disclose automatically scheduling a preventative maintenance appointment by contacting a service technician with the electronic message, like the Applicants' claimed invention.

Further, even though Kageyama has an automatic status monitoring system, it does not contact a service technician. Namely, Kageyama explicitly states that "...[S]ince there is **no need to dispatch a service man** dedicated to servicing the printer from the

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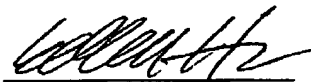
printer manufacturer to the place of the user, it is possible for the user to reduce the maintenance cost, and for the printer manufacture to reduce the personnel expenses. *[emphasis added]* (see col. 13, lines 46-51 of Kageyama). As such, unlike the claimed present invention, since Kageyama does not disclose automatically scheduling a preventative maintenance appointment by contacting a service technician with the electronic message, Kageyama cannot anticipate the claims.

With regard to the rejections of the dependent claims, because these rejected claims depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these rejected dependent claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Respectfully submitted,
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